

Issue 7
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Inside this Issue:

Alaskan Villages Benefit from Joint Military Medical Outreach	2
Chaplain Corps' Strategic Leadership Symposium Highlights Future of Navy Religious Ministry	2
Carl Vinson Sailor Teaches Kids About Dental Hygiene	3
NHB Says 'Farewell' to Deploying Staff Members; Largest group deployment from hospital in years sees staff members leaving on	3
Cmdr. Elected to American College of Healthcare Executives Council of Regents	5
Future of Surgical Services at Naval Health Care New England	5

SAN DIEGO - Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, commander of Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD), and Cmdr. Ronald J. Boucher, vice chairman of the radiology department, cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the new dual-source computed tomography scanner at the hospital March 21. NMCSD is the first Department of Defense health facility to own and operate this type of scanner. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Damien Horvath*

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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Chairman of Joint Chiefs Of Staff Urges You to Give Blood to The Armed Services Blood Program

U. S. Army Medical Command Office of the Chief of Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) is proud to announce Admiral Michael Mullen's support of the ASBP and the program's mission to provide quality blood products for all worldwide service members and their families, in peace and war.

Recently, Admiral Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, recorded a public service announcement urging all to take time out of their busy lives, roll up their sleeves, and donate blood to the ASBP. "A single donation could help save as many as three people whose lives are in danger right now," said Admiral Mullen.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff is a group comprised of the Chiefs of each major branch of the United States armed services. In receiving the Chairman's support, the ASBP

hopes to raise awareness across all services- the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Marines about ASBP's global efforts to provide military members and their families with sufficient blood supplies.

"We are fortunate and proud to have the support of an honorable serviceman, who has served our country nobly and reputably. With Admiral Mullen's support, we hope that more donors will step up to the challenge and give blood to our military men, women, and their families" said Navy Commander Michael C. Libby, Director of the Armed Services Blood Program Office.

View Admiral Mullen's public service announcement, find out more about the ASBP, and schedule a blood donation appointment at a blood donor center near you by visiting www.militaryblood.dod.mil.



Alaskan Villages Benefit from Joint Military Medical Outreach

By Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Matt Grills, Commander,
Navy Reserve Force Public Affairs

KODIAK, Alaska - Mixed teams of Army, Navy and Air Force health-care providers are spending a week, March 3-10, in six remote villages in Kodiak, treating hundreds of medically underserved people as part of Operation Arctic Care 2008.

Residents of Karluk, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Akhiok and Larsen Bay have enthusiastically welcomed the military as guests, inviting members to visit their schools and use their clinics to conduct free eye exams and dental cleanings. Meanwhile, Army veterinarians are traveling house to house, vaccinating animals.

"They've received us with open arms," said Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick Holena, an optometry assistant. "They're happy we're here, and we're happy to be here. As soon as we hit the ground we started building friendships and making ourselves part of the community."

Teams began arriving March 3

for the seven-day operation via Coast Guard helicopters, charter fishing boats and Kodiak's Civil Air Patrol, when weather prevented the Alaska Army National Guard from using Blackhawks to deliver personnel and supplies.

"This is, at heart, a civil-military project," said Air Force Lt. Col. Jerry Arends, officer in charge for Operation Arctic Care 2008. "The native corporation asks for the project and provides clinical support in the villages. Here we're actually looking at the civilian community providing transportation to the villages. That's very unique."

Operation Arctic Care is conducted in cooperation with and under the supervision of the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA), which provides health and social services for Alaska natives in the City of Kodiak and the island borough's six smaller communities.

Because of the distance – an hour or longer, by air – natives wanting to see a doctor often wait until KANA comes to their village. Non-natives must fly to Kodiak.

"The non-beneficiary residents of our remote villages don't have



KODIAK, Alaska - Service members load supplies aboard a local fishing boat to provide medical, veterinary and mechanical services to six island borough communities of Kodiak, Alaska as part of Operation Arctic Care 2008 March 3 - 10. U.S. Air Force Photo provided by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. John R. Nimmo Sr.

access to our chronic care," said KANA's pharmacist, Cmdr. Preston Van Curen of the U.S. Public Health Service. "When Arctic Care comes to the island, it's a big bonus to those people."

Both groups, native and non-native, benefit from the mission, which offers medical, dental and veterinary services from military providers at no cost. Specialty care

(Continued on page 4)

Chaplain Corps' Strategic Leadership Symposium Highlights Future of Navy Religious Ministry

From Chief of Navy Chaplains

WASHINGTON - In an unprecedented show of attendance and participation, the Navy Chaplain Corps' Strategic Leadership Symposium in Albuquerque, N.M., March 3-5, is being called one of the most successful ever held.

With "Sharing the Vision: The Future is Now" as this year's theme, the symposium focused on the Department of the Navy's Strategic Plan for Religious Ministry—drawing chaplains from coast to coast for an in-depth study of the plan's opportunities and challenges. Sharing the podium with the chaplains was the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead.

According to Rear Adm. Robert Burt, Chief of Navy Chaplains, "This year's symposium gave us a chance to take a more diligent approach to determining how the Chaplain Corps should look in areas regarding community health, operating models, and service methodology."

"Our focus in this iteration of the continuing strategic planning process is to document the Chaplain Corps mission and vision, articulate our capabilities, and de-

fine our long-term goals and strategies (for the next 3 to 5 years)."

In his message to the Chaplain Corps leadership, Roughead said, "I am committed to the welfare of our Sailors and their families who are making the sacrifices necessary to win the Global War on Terrorism."

The admiral further encouraged chaplains to "Take the best possible care of the men and women entrusted to us, by implementing a continuous review of the services and programs offered by the Chaplain Corps, and develop meaningful measures and metrics that continuously assess and report performance, both internally and externally, in the areas of process, program, personnel, and service."

Both chaplains and religious program specialists manage and execute Command Religious Programs that accommodate our nation's diverse religious requirements.

Intended to move the Chaplain Corps in the direction set forth by the Strategic Plan, the symposium offered the Chaplain Corps leadership a chance to address, among other items, Chaplain Corps responsibilities—facilitate for others, provide for their own; advise commands, and care for all.

Carl Vinson Sailor Teaches Kids About Dental Hygiene

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Matthew DeWitt, USS Carl Vinson Public Affairs

CHESAPEAKE, Va. - A USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) Sailor paid a visit to the Western Branch Primary School in Chesapeake, Feb. 25, to teach elementary students about the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene.

The visit was part of an outreach project between the aircraft carrier's Dental Department and local community schools in the Hampton Roads area.

"I love being able to come out and teach dental hygiene to students of all ages," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Kimberly Edwards, a Vinson dental hygienist who has volunteered for numerous projects in the area. "I want them to know that it's important to keep their teeth in the best condition possible, because healthy teeth and gums are an essential part of a healthy body."

During the presentation, Edwards used visual aids to demonstrate proper brushing and flossing techniques. Students were also familiarized with dental tools used during routine oral examinations, which Edwards said is important in easing the common fears some children have when visiting a dental office.

"We want children to know that dentists are there to

help them," said Edwards.

For the staff at Western Branch, the opportunity to have Sailors like Edwards in their classes has been a very positive experience for both the service members and the students.

"I am so glad that we have the support of Carl Vinson Sailors to aid in teaching dental care for kids," said Sylvia Babb, Western Branch Primary School nurse. "Being able to teach first graders is difficult, but Edwards is able to do it well. The whole experience has impressed me, and I would love to have her back again."

After the presentation, Edwards distributed dental hygiene kits and toothbrushes to students. Children also had the experience of trying chewable dental hygiene tablets, which highlight areas of the mouth missed after brushing.

For Edwards, the school visit was a unique opportunity to help local children get off to a good start with oral hygiene; something she said is a lifetime investment in oneself.

"Your teeth are important and you want to keep them for a lifetime," said Edwards. "I'm glad I can reach out to children at an early age and let them know how important it is to take care of your teeth."

NHB Says 'Farewell' to Deploying Staff Members *Largest group deployment from hospital in years sees staff members leaving on*

By Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class (SW) Fletcher Gibson, Naval Hospital Bremerton Public Affairs

BREMERTON, Wash. - Friends and well-wishers gathered on the Naval Hospital Bremerton quarter-deck last Friday to say goodbye to the more than 30 staff members deploying from the command.

"This is the biggest group I've seen deploy in my nearly two years here," said Capt. Catherine Wilson, the hospital's commanding officer.

The majority of recent deployments from NHB have been as individual augmentees or small groups rotating through forward-deployed military treatment facilities. In this case, the hospital is sending a larger detachment, numbering 28 men and women, to the USNS MERCY and its upcoming humanitarian mission to Pacific Rim countries. The remainder of the group honored Friday will be deployed as IAs to such places as Afghanistan, Iraq and Cuba.

The Sailors selected to deploy cover a broader range of career fields than just medical staff. Nearly one third of the deploying crew will bring their non-medical skills to the missions, ranging in specialties from cooks and postal clerks to computer techs and masters-at-arms.

"It'll be nice to get out there and get some hands-on involvement," said Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Jonathan Greathouse, one of NHB's human resource clerks who will be supporting the MERCY's mission administratively.

The size and nature of the USNS MERCY will also allow corpsmen to work in non-traditional jobs in support of the mission. For example, Hospitalman Nicole Leyburn, an ER corpsman when at the hospital, will be working the flight deck of the ship, helping launch and receive helicopters while underway. She said she's excited about the opportunity to step outside of her rate.

"I was lucky to go to the Emer-

gency Room right out of corps school," she said, speaking of the challenging tempo of patient care. "I'm ready to do some other stuff, but where do you go from the ER?"

Training for the MERCY deployers began in December with a week-long training session on the hospital ship itself. Although still portside in San Diego, the NHB staff members were able to tour their future work centers and receive shipboard training in firefighting.

Staff members deploying to other locations will have a chance for training en route to their order sites. Lt. Angela Adams, a psychologist at NHB, will see training at a simulator site at Ft. Lewis before entering her new role as a psychologist at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp.

The hospital also prepared the deployers with a pre-deployment brief not only for the staff members but their family members as well.

(Continued on page 4)

NHB continued...

(Continued from page 3)

At the brief, the attendees heard presentations from the command Ombudsmen, the local Fleet and Family Support Center, and legal, all geared to making sure that the Sailors and their family members were well prepared for the deployment.

"You have a commitment from the staff here to care for the loved ones you're leaving behind," said

Wilson at the meeting. "That's what it means to be part of the Navy Family."

The 32 deployers will leave in waves vice as one group. While many of those bound for the MERCY, for example, will be arriving on the ship a month before the deployment starts, others will be joining the ship after it's underway.

Depending on the individual's orders, these deployments will range from six months to a year



BREMERTON, Wash.— Naval Hospital Bremerton deployers. *U.S. Navy photo by Douglas H. Stutz*

and a half.

Alaska continued...

(Continued from page 2)

this year includes dermatology, physical therapy and psychiatry.

Army Capt. Dan Chatterley volunteered for Arctic Care two years ago, when he was first stationed at Fort Wainwright.

"I'm enjoying it," said Chatterley, a general dentist assigned to the fishing village of Ouzinkie, which has a population of 193. "I've seen probably 40 or 50 patients so far – mostly exams, a couple of extractions, a lot of fillings. The community has done a good job getting the word out that we're here."

Chondra Wommack brought her five children, all 6 and younger, to the Ouzinkie Health Clinic for oral checkups.

Chief Hospital Corpsman Aimee Arnold, a dental hygienist, has spent every morning in Ouzinkie's school, teaching students how to take care of their teeth and telling them about career opportunities in her field.

"The children are wonderful," Arnold said. "They love asking questions. I think one of them is going to end up becoming a dentist. He knew how many teeth are in the mouth, and which are the molars and which are the incisors."

Villagers also receive eye exams and, when needed, free eyewear.

Air Force Maj. Christine Stabile of McChord Air Force Base in Washington brought a deployable optometry kit that includes an autorefractor, a handheld computer that can make an approximate measurement of a person's prescription within seconds.

"Our equipment supports Arctic Care every year, and we said, 'This year, if you're taking our equipment, you're taking our personnel,'" Stabile said. "We do exactly the same kind of care that you would receive at any optometry or ophthalmology clinic in the United States; there's no cutting corners. An eye exam usually includes 14 tests, and all 14 tests are done here."

Optometrists in each village fax prescriptions to a makeshift lab set up at the Coast Guard base in Kodiak, where Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Nicholas Piccard and Army Spc. Tony Fountain from the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity in Yorktown, Va., grind the

lenses and produce eyewear in a matter of minutes.

"We're expecting to do about 400 jobs," Piccard said. "We brought finished lenses with us. From there we take off the sharp edges, mount them, quality check, wrap them up, and we're good to go."

Of all her patients this week, Stabile said she was most moved by the story of a young girl who had been taken in by her uncle after her father died in an accident and her mother abandoned her.

"When we gave her prescription to her uncle and told him that she'll do better at school, he started to cry. He was just so relieved," Stabile said.

Air National Guard Lt. Col. John Carmack is filling the role of primary-care physician in Ouzinkie and Larsen Bay, a village of fewer than 100 people. He has seen patients for sinus infections, hypertension, diabetes, coronary disease and mental-health issues.

"I've had people tell me that they wish I lived here," Carmack said. "Everyone has thanked me for serving, and not just me but the whole team. They say what we're doing here is a great service."

Port Lions Mayor Judy Raymond said that for the people of her village, the military teams haven't just brought care. They've brought conversation.

"I look around and see people who we've not seen out for quite some time," Raymond said. "One member of our community was talking to a couple of people who had actually served in Iraq, and she told me it brought awareness back to her. We are somewhat isolated and can sometimes forget about what's going on outside here. This has been invigorating for us."

The same can be said for those participating in Arctic Care, said Air Force Lt. Col. Jason Hall of Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. As the team leader in Ouzinkie, he said the mission has built esprit de corps between the different service branches.

"I'll go to war with any one of these Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. They're a fantastic crew. We have bonded as a family," said Hall.

Operation Arctic Care is an annual training event sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Cmdr. Elected to American College of Healthcare Executives Council of Regents

From Naval Hospital Cherry Point, N.C., Public Affairs Office

NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC
CHERRY POINT, N.C. - Commander Robert S. Fry, Ph.D., FACHE, Director for Administration, Naval Health Clinic, Cherry Point, has been appointed to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), which serves as the vital link between ACHE and affiliates by approving governance and membership regulations as well as promoting ACHE programs, services and activities within their respective areas.

Commander Fry took office at the Council of Regents meeting in March 2008, during ACHE's 51st Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago. As a Regent, Fry will represent ACHE's membership in the Navy, Coast Guard and the Public Health Service.

Fry has served as the Director for Administration at the Naval Health Clinic since October 2005. Prior to this position, he was the Department of Defense Program Manager for Population Health at the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and TRICARE Management Activity. Fry has over 26 years of service in Navy Medicine with nine years as a Hospital Corpsman. He has been stationed at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Portsmouth; 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on Okinawa; Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu; Naval Hospital Jacksonville in Florida; Fleet Hospital Program in Alameda; U.S. Naval Hospital in Naples; and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington DC. In 2002, he earned his Doctorate in Health Policy and Management while on duty under instruction orders at the University of South Florida in Tampa.



U.S. Navy photo by Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point, N.C.

In May 2008, Fry reports as the Director for Medical Manpower in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV N931).

Future of Surgical Services at Naval Health Care New England

By Naval Health Care New England Public Affairs Office

NAVAL HEALTH CARE NEW ENGLAND, NEWPORT, R.I. - Over the past few months, there has been significant evaluation regarding the gradual discontinuation of surgical services at Naval Health Clinic New England (NHCNE), Newport, Rhode Island.

The current available surgical



services are General Surgery, Orthopedics, Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) and Oral Surgery. The demand of such services from our beneficiaries resulted in the question of 'would it be more efficient and effective to deliver these services to our beneficiaries through the local civilian network'?

Navy Medicine's leadership has carefully studied the situation here in the TRICARE Region North and an interim decision has been made to sustain these services for the near future. In addition to providing surgical support in Newport, beneficiaries from NBHC Groton site will either come to Newport for surger-

ies by military physicians, or be referred out into the civilian network in the Groton/New London area.

The basis for this interim decision is the current healthy staffing levels of these surgical specialties throughout Navy Medicine at this time. Consolidation of the surgical staff to Newport will also ensure continuity of available care - a situation that has not always occurred due to the NHCNE role in supporting operational commitments in the global war on terrorism.



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